GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3041
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
AGENCIES FOR PLANT VIRUS DIAGNOSIS AND QUALITY CONTROL
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any agencies for plant virus diagnosis and quality control for the benefits of farming community;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) the potential demand for planting material of agricultural, horticulture, floriculture per year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for commercialisation of plant tissue culture globally?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) : The Department of Biotechnology has established a National Facility for Virus Diagnosis and Quality Control of tissue culture raised planting material. The facility is set up at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and there are five satellite centres at Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore; Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology, Palampur; National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; SPIC Science Foundation, Chennai; Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi. The facility aims at providing virus testing and quality testing support for tissue culture raised plants, based on the use of Biotechnological methods for diagnosis and molecular markers for quality testing.

(c) & (d) : There is a great potential of disease free planting materials in different crops and commodities in the country. The Department of Biotechnology is promoting the commercialization of plant tissue culture by providing an interface between the R&D institutes and industry through the Micropropogation Technology Parks (MTPs) set up at TERI, New Delhi and NCL, Pune. The Department has supported a vast network of R&D projects which aim at developing complete protocols for micropropogation of economically important plant species. The two MTPs play an important role in refining these protocols for scale up and transferring the complete technology package to the industry. In addition the two MTPs also provide complete know how for setting up of green house/low cost polyhouses in different states. Training of skilled human resource is another important feature of the MTPs which provide support to the Industry. The National Facility for Virus Diagnosis and Quality Control has also been set up to meet the requirements of the Industry.